

Message Text

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R 312305Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 167045

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: TRAVEL CONTROLS - SOVIETS REQUEST FURTHER
RELAXATION

1. ON JULY 30, SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELLOR MYSHKOV PRESENTED
NOTE TO DEPARTMENT REQUESTING ADDITIONAL RELAXATION OF US
TRAVEL CONTROLS ON SOVIETS. NOTE CITES SOVIET EVALUATION
OF US RESPONSE AS INADEQUATE OFFERING FEWER POINTS, ALONG
FEWER 'FEDERAL ROADS' FOR NOTE-FREE TRAVEL, AND INCLUDES
COMPLAINT THAT TEMPORARILY CLOSED STATES IN US EXCEED AREA
OF SOVIET CLOSED OBLASTS IN FAR EAST.

2. TO REDRESS IMBALANCE, SOVIETS PROPOSE THAT THEIR STAFF
BE GRANTED NOTE-FREE ACCESS BY AUTO TO BALTIMORE AND
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FREDERICKSBURG, VA. (INCLUDING HISTORICAL MONUMENTS NEAR
FREDERICKSBURG) AND BY AUTO AND RAIL TO PHILADELPHIA.

3. IN CONVERSATION FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF NOTE, MYSHKOV PAINTED ROSY PICTURE OF EXPANDED TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMBASSY MOSCOW STAFF, INCLUDING NOTE-FREE TRAVEL TO ZAVI-DOVO AND BORODINO. IN RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT OFFICER'S COMMENT THAT THESE POINTS NOT COVERED IN SOVIET NOTES, MYSHKOV ADMITTED HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH ALL DETAILS OF MOSCOW TRAVEL SCENE.

4. DEPARTMENT OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT MAIN PROBLEM TO DATE WITH SOVIET RELAXATION OF CONTROLS HAS BEEN THEIR ADMINISTRATION BY MOSCOW AUTHORITIES. FOR EXAMPLE, TRAVELERS TO LAKE SENEZHSKOYE WERE TURNED BACK FROM INTENDED OUTING BY LOCAL MILITARY PERSONNEL, AND POLITICAL COUNSELLOR WAS TURNED DOWN ON REQUEST TO TRAVEL ON MOSCOW-VOLGA CANAL. WHEN ASKED IF SOVIET OFFICIALS WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO WIDER RELAXATION OF CONTROLS ON RECIPROCAL BASIS, MYSHKOV REPLIED THAT THIS WOULD BE ANOTHER MATTER; THE IMMEDIATE TOPICS AT HAND WERE IN THE NOTE HE HAD PRESENTED.

5. DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS OF SOVIET NOTE AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION FOLLOW SEPTEL. COPIES OF SOVIET NOTE NO. 65 POUCHED MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD. KISSINGER

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